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Saigon 4677

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CPM 03,SP 02,SC 01,L 03,H 02,NSC 10,P 04,INR 07,AID 30,RSR 01,
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 4677

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT : PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN RALLY IN SAIGON SEPTEMBER 1

1. FINAL JOINT CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WAS HELD LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 1 AT SQUARE IN FRONT OF SAIGON CITY HALL. SEVEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES APPEARED. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES SPOKE FOR VU HONG KHANH, HA THUC KY AND NGUYEN VAN THIEU; PHAN HUY CO WAS REPRESENTED BY HIS RUNNING- MATE

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LY QUOC SINH, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY GIAP VAN THAP, CHAIRMAN OF SAIGON ELECIION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, PRESIDED OVER MEETING. ENTHUSIASTICAND AT TIMES SEOMEWHAT UNRULY CROWD OF APPROXIMA TELY 4,000
ATTENDED. MEMBERS OF AMERICAN OBSERVER DELEGATION VIEWED PROCEEDINGS

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FROM ROOFTOP OF REX HOTEL. AS IN ALL CAMPAIGN MEETINGS, ORDER IN WHICH CANDIDTAES APPEARED WAS DETERMINED BY DRAWING LOTS. EACH SLATE WAS ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF TEN MINUTES TO SPEAK PLUS FIVE MINUTES TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

2. FIRST TO APPEAR WERE TRAN VAN HUONG AND MAI THO TRUYEN. HUONG FIRST ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO CHARGES THAT HE OPPRESSED BUDDHISTS DURING IS PREMIERSHIP. HE SAID CHARGES ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION: AS PRIME MINISTER HE DID USE STRONG MEASURES TO COUNTER ACTIVITIES OF A FEW INDIVIDUALS BENT ON SABOTAGE, BUT HE NEVER OPPRESSED BUDDHISTS. SECONDLY, HUONG SAID THAT THERE ARE RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT HE HAS MADE DEAL WITH AN QUANG BUDDHISTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NO SICH DEAL HAS BEEN MADE. HUONG PROTESTED GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF NEW URA CHARTER AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE: GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT INTERVENE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF RELIGIONS. HIS POSITION ON CHARTER

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DOES NOT MEAN HE HAS MADE A DEAL WITH AN QUANG BUDDHISTS.
THIRD, SPEAKING OF PROSPECT FOR FURVIVAL OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT, HUONG SAID MILITARY COULD NEVER OVERTHOW FREELY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, ALLIES WOULD NEVER ALLOW COUP TO TAKE PLACE.
AT END OF HIS SPEECH HUONG WAS GOVEN POLITE APPLAUSE. TRUYEN DID NOT SPEAK.

3. IN QUESTION PERIOD HUONG WAS ASKED IF HE WOULD AGREE TO SERVE AS PRIME MINISTER IF THIEU AND KY ARE ELECTED, OR IF HE WOULD NAME THIEU OR KY PRIME MINISTER IF HE IS ELECTED. HUONG REPLIED THAT "AFTER SEEING WHAT HAS HAPPENED " (IN CAMPAIGN) HE WOULD NEVER ACCEPT PREMIERSHIP IN THIEU GOVERNMENT. HUONG SAID THAT IF HE I S
ELECTED, HIS CHOICE OF PRIME MINISTER WILL BE MADE ON BASIS OF ABILITY, WITHOUT REGARD TO WHETHER MAN IS MILITARY OR CIVILIAN. SECOND QUESTION CLAIMED TO HAVE IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT HUONG DID OPPRESS BUDDHISTS. HUONG ONCE AGAIN DENIED HAVING DONE SO. AND DREW ENTHUSIASTICAPPLAUSE WHEN HE IDENTIFIED HEC ER BY NAME. HUONG AND TRUYEN WERE GIVEN GOOD ROUND OF APPLAUSE AT END OF THEIR APPEARANCE.

4. SECOND TO SPEAK WAS LY QUOC SINH, REPRESENTI 'G PHOM HUY CO.

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SINH SAID THAT CO WAS ON CAMPAIGN TRIP TO PROVINCES. SINH CALLED FOR DEFEAT OF COMMUNISTS, WARNING OF COMMUNIST DUPLICITY IN NEGOTIATIONS. NOT ONLY SHOULD THERE BE VICTORY IN SOUTH, BUT NORTH VIET-NAM SHOULD BE LIBERATED. SINH DREW LOUD JEERS AT SEVERAL P INTS IN HIS SPEECH, WHICH DID NOT APPEAR TO BOTHER HIM IN THE LEAST. QUESTIONER DELIGHTED AUDIENCE WHEN HE ASKED SINH IF HE HAD EVER SERVED IN ARMY. SINH ASSURED LISTENERS THAT HE HAD, AS RESERVE OFFICER. HE WAS ALSO ASKED WHY HE CALLED FOR CONTINUATION OF WAR WHEN PEOPLE OF BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAM WANT PEACE. SINH REPLIED THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT AS LONG AS COMMUNIST AGGRESSION CONTINUES. CROWD WAS GENERALLY UN-SYMPATHETIC TO SINH.

5. THIRD SPEAKER WAS TYOUNG DINH DZU, ACCOMPANIED BY RUNNING-MATE TRAN VAN CHIEU. DZU AND CHIEU WERE GREETED BY ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE. AS THE MOUNTED SPEAKERS PLATFORM NUMEROUS "WHITE DOVE" PLACARDS APPEARED AND CLUSTERS OF BALLOONS, WITH DZU BANNERS ATTACHED, WERE RELEASED. CHIEU GAVE BRIEF INTODUCTORY STATEMENT IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZED THAT "WE ADVOCATE PEACE ". AUDIENCE APPLAUDED HIS REMARKS.

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6. DZU SAID THAT PEOPLE OF VIET-NAM DEMAND TWO THINGS: PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. "WHAT HAS THIS GOVERNMENT DONE SO FAR?" ACCORDING TO DZU, IT HAS DONE NOTHING. AUTHORITIES HAVE FAILED TO IMPROVE LIFE OF PEOPLE OR CREATE JUST SOCIETY. FURTHERMORE, BASIC RIGHTS OF CITIZENS ARE CONSTANTLY DISREGARDED. DZU PROMISED IF ELECTED TO WORK FOR NATIONAL UNITY. POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED UNDER GENERAL AMNESTY. ALL ELEMENTS IN NATION "EXCEPT THIEU AND KY" WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT AND JOIN IN SEARCH FOR TRUE PEACE. IN CLOSING DZU URGED VOTERS TO USE THEIR BALLOTS TO GET RID OF "THIEU, KY AND DICTATORSHIP." CROWD ENJOYED DZU'S PERFORMANCE, INTERRUPTING SEVERAL TIMES WITH APPLAUSE.

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7. IN QUESTION PERIOD SOLDIER ASKED DZU IF HE HAD FORGOTTEN SACRIFICES MADE BY MILITARY. DZU SAID THAT PEACE HE DESIRES IS PEACE IN JUSTICE AND FREEDOM, SAME SORT OF PEACE WHICH POPE HAS CALLED FOR. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIEU AND KY ARE ONES WHO FORGET SOLDIERS' SACRIFICE. DZU THEN COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON UNFAIR CAMPAIGN ADVANTAGES OF THEIU AND KY, CLAIMING THAT MANAGER OF SAIGON PUBLIC BUS COMPANY SPENT " ALMOST TWO MILLION PIASTRES"

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FOR ONE CAMPAIGN DINNER FOR THIEU - KY SLATE. DZU REPEATED STATEMENT THAT IF ELECTED "I DARE THIEU AND KY TOOVERTHROW ME." DZU RECEIVED MOST ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUOE OF THE DAY.

8. NEXT TO APPEAR WAS NGUYEN VAN NGAI, REPRESENTING HA THUC KY AND NGUYEN VAN DINH. ACCORDING TO NGAI, BOTH KY AND DINH WERE ILL. NGAI IMMEDIATELY OPENED FLOOR TO QUESTIONS. FIRST QUESTION, APPARENTLY PLANTED, WAS " WHY DOES GOVERNMENT CASE DIFFICULTIES FOR RELIGIONS." NGAI REPLIED THAT KY-DINH SLATE HAS REPEATEDLY PROTESTED GVN'S RECENT "SERIOUS VIOLATION OF INTERNAL BUDDHIST AFFAIRS." ASKED HOW CIVILIAN CANDIDATES WILL REACT IF ELECTION IS REGGED, NGAI NOTED THAT KY-DINH SLATE HAS MANY TIMES DENOUNCED CAVALIER ATTITUDE OF THIEU AND KY, AND ADDED THAT " I WAS FIRST PERSON TO OPPOSE THEM IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY." NGAI WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT " DISCRIMINATORY MENTALITY" OF DAI VIET PARTY. HE ASSURED AUDIENCE THAT HA THUC KY STANDS FOR NATIONAL UNITY. NGAI WAS GIVEN FAIRLY POLITE BUT UNENTHUSIASTIC HEARING.

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